

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11

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DRAFTED BY PM/NPO - MR. OPLINGER;KEM

APPROVED BY PM - MR. SLOSS

EA/ANP - MR. OWEN

PM/NPO - MR. NOSENZO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, AS, FR, NZ

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND COMMENTS ON FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

REF: STATE 140770

1. NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY OFFICER BEATH ON JULY 1 PROVIDED
OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO OUR JUNE 28 APPROACH REGARDING GNZ
ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FRENCH TESTS. HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. GNZ IS FULLY AWARE OF U.S. POSITION IN THIS MATTER, AND
HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ABIDE BY OUR UNDERSTANDING.

B. STATE OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN NEW ZEALAND REGARDING
FRENCH TESTS HAS CHANGED, PARTICULARLY SINCE FRENCH
ANNOUNCED LAST TEST IN ADVANCE.

C. PM KIRK'S REMARKS ABOUT NUMBER OF PROJECTED TESTS
AND AIR DROP WERE BASED ON REPORTS ALREADY IN NEW
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ZEALAND PAPERS, INCLUDING ONE DATELINED PAPEETE QUOTING

"INFORMED SOURCES IN PARIS". BEATH ADDED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS DID NOT ADDRESS KIRK'S COMMENT ABOUT YIELD.

2. ON JUNE 3 PM DEPUTY DIRECTOR SLOSS CALLED IN NEW ZEALAND MINISTER ATKINS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. NOTING THAT WE WANTED TO BE CERTAIN THAT THE TERMS OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS ARE CLEAR, SLOSS REVIEWED U.S. POSITION STRESSING THAT USE OF PRESS SOURCES REGARDING SPECIFICS OF FRENCH TESTS DID NOT RELIEVE OUR ANXIETY. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCH SPECIFICS BY PM AS FACTS RATHER THAN UNVERIFIED PRESS REPORTS RAISED SAME KIND OF PROBLEMS FOR US AS WOULD ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIFICS HAD THERE BEEN NO PRESS REPORTAGE. WE THEREFORE WISHED TO REAFFIRM OUR DESIRE THAT GNZ PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS BE LIMITED TO "HAS REASON TO BELIEVE" FORMULA WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONS.

3. ATKINS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PRECISELY U.S. POSITION AND WOULD ONCE AGAIN REPORT OUR CONCERN THAT IT BE RIGOROUSLY RESPECTED. HE ASKED IF WE COULD AGREE TO BROADEN THE ARRANGEMENT TO PERMIT MENTION OF SPECIFICS IF IT WERE CLEARLY STATED THAT THEY CAME FROM PUBLIC SOURCES. HE WAS ADVISED THAT U.S. WOULD NOT OBJECT PROVIDED THE ANNOUNCEMENT CITED THE SPECIFIC PUBLIC SOURCE BEING USED. SISCO

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